

botanists for years, who can appreciate the immense value to me
of properly named plants. Isolated and alone, & compelled to
rely exclusively on my own books & herbarium, I sometimes feel,
when writing your small note for the Journal of Botany, that
I will never do so again - so conscious am I of the certainty
of having overlooked numbers of important papers bearing on the
subject I am treating of, and, yet, one does not like to keep to
such a resolution, after half a lifetime devoted to a science,
when living in a very imperfectly explored country. It is
not that I am careless; but, how can a private person, of
very limited means, obtain a quarter of the works he would
wish to consult? This is one reason why I am so grateful for
all your pamphlets. If you are able to send me anything,
by & by, I must bef you, particularly, not to entangle me in any
positive obligations to other botanists, as I have a half uneasy
idea you did or may have done to some extent with Prof. Eaton
& Mr. Gray. I never have a chance of collecting here myself
& Mr. Tampier does nothing now, I expect to say - & you can
of course understand how very unhappy I should feel at being
supposed to "obtain plants under false pretences"; or in fact at
any disagreeable shade of non-reciprocity in these matters
affecting me. Pray, therefore, bear this in mind: I would much
rather get nothing than receive valuable plants with an obligation
attaching to their receipt which I might ever fulfil. I
am quite alone, & have to do every mechanical piece of work con-
nected with my herbarium, & I am much engaged by the loss which
it has pleased God to inflict on me - so much so, that were
it not for my dear children, I should pray to be at rest.
Would it be feasible at this lapse of time to procure any of the
Valuable Survey Reports ^(Botanical) on the P. R. line, & the Mexican Boundary
etc., Emory's botany? They would be most useful to me, & I would,
if you would let me know the cost in advance, remit you the
charge by Bill on New York. Of the explorers for the P. R. R. I have
already Popen's (32°) Gunnison's (38-9°) Whipple's (35°) & Beckwith's
(41°) explorations, no others. The Mail Co. gave me no ticket
at all for the box.

I am, My dear Dr. Gray,
Yours very sincerely
A. H. Macneil.

British Vice Consulate, Whampoa,
8. April, 1873.

My dear Dr. Gray,

It is now four and a half years since I
received a tolerably long letter from you, & a few weeks later
a very fine & interesting collection of plants partly contributed
by Prof. Eaton & Mr. Gray. To that letter I wrote a full reply,
sending it, as requested by you, to the care of Joseph Hooker,
who told me you were travelling in Egypt when it reached him.
Whether you ever got it I cannot tell, but I hope so. I
am aware you are so overworked that you have little time
for correspondence, whence I do not interpret silence as a
proof you did not hear from me. Shortly before Janus. 1871,
I received a visit from the Rev. Mr. Bradley, who brought me a
letter of introduction from you, & I was glad to have him as a
guest for a day & a half, to show him my small library & herbarium,
to give him such counsel as I could, & to promise to aid him in
the determination of any Siamese plant he might send me.
I particularly impressed on him the interest there would be
sure to be in the Flora of the interior mountainous regions of
the Laos country, where he has a married sister residing.
I expect mission work has occupied all his time, for I have
not heard from him since then. I have from time to time
received copies of y^r various important contributions to Amer-
ican & Polynesian botany, & need scarcely say how interesting
& useful they all are to me. Last year too, I got a copy of
Mr. King's beautifully got up "Botany of the 40th parallel,"
for which I am so grateful & am indebted to yr. good offices.
How is Mr. Charles Wright, whom you may remember, I met
when he was attached to the "Sincennes," and what is he doing
now? Is there no speedy prospect of Prof. Brewer's Californian
Flora appearing? I long to possess it. About three years
since I wrote to Mr. Bolander, begging him if possible to
let me have specimens of all the California Capsuliferae,

and any Coniferae & Caryees he could spare, & to enter into correspondence & exchange with me. He wrote me a very friendly answer, promising to send what I wanted, but though I have thence written twice I have received no answer, so I do not even know whether he is still in San Francisco. Last year, in the summer, I received from Messrs. A. Heard & Co. of Shanghai the letters I had sent them years before to Hongkong for Mr. Bingham, inclosing a letter of introduction for him to Dr. Thwaites, of Fuzon! How it came not to be delivered to Mr. B. at the time, I can't imagine, for I wrote in good time. I fear he must have thought me very remiss - indeed I have supposed that he has failed to keep my promise of giving him a letter of introduction. If you are in communication with him, will you kindly explain this unfortunate contraction, & also remember me to him. Last September I was struck by the severest blow which can well fall on a man in this world. My beloved wife, with whom, when a child, in幼年, I was a playmate; & from whom I had never been separated since our union, twenty years ago, was taken from me quite suddenly, dying in my arms, within three hours of my kissing & playing with her, of apoplexy, rapidly supervening on hemiplegia. There was neither physician nor lady here; so I had, under these terrible circumstances, to nurse & treat her myself. She has left me with six motherless children; & as those who were here have to leave me, this sad loss has entailed the complete breaking-up of my once happy home, & I am left solitary in a place where I sometimes pass a week or more without speaking to a European, & then, too often, it is to punish a refractory or drunken seaman. This sudden bereavement nearly killed me at the time, but I have had to think of those who are dependent on me, & I have at length overcome the strange restlessness & inability to settle to any work which at first I was powerless to cope with - & I trust devotion to our favorite science will give some diversion to the sadness of my thoughts. There ^{were} few employments I have made, so truly united in heart & soul as any lost angel and myself were. I am sure, dear Dr. Gray, you will give me your sympathy. To one to whom love and life were almost synonymous, such a loss as this is very hard to bear. If you will find many of

my tickets copied by her dear hand.

The particular reason for my writing to you now is to say that by the Pacific Mail Steamer which takes this letter, I have sent you a box containing a carefully packed parcel of dried plants, of which I beg the acceptance. I have paid carriage on this as far as Boston, so you ought to, and I hope will receive it free of all charge. Knowing the extent of Barker Wright's Chinese collections, I have refrained from sending ordinary plants - & thus the parcel only contains 325 specimens - but I feel sure many of these will be both interesting & acceptable. Do not ask or expect you to return this parcel, knowing how busy you are. I shall enclose in this a list of desiderata, some of which you may be able to get for me. I would most particularly ask for the Cupuliferae, Planera (of which genus, I possess all the species known, except yours), & the Saxifragace. Of this latter family I have many of the very rarest Australian spp., all the Japanese, & by far the majority of those described from New Caledonia by Rongiat & Gris, besides Nicollard's unpublished ones, all of which I got from the late M. Lenormand. Of Cupuliferae, I now possess nearly 140 spp. or marked vars. of Grewia alone & I am most anxious for any of the Pacific & Californian species - I have many of Bonjean's & Glehn's oaks determined by Tononier, & sent me from the Paris Museum. Carex has long been a very favorite genus with me, and any West coast, Californian, Sitka or Siberian species would be especially valuable. I have marked off those in yr. manual of which I do not possess species. & to these should be added such as are peculiar to the Southern States. Of course, dear Dr. Gray, I do not send this list with the expectation of getting a list of the species named in it; but you yourself, in yr. letter of June 1868, approved of the plan of sending such, & it shows what would be acceptable, & an envoy might very well be restricted to things named in the list. All California & West coast Gramineae too would be useful, besides those in yr. manual which I have given, and also any peculiar Southern ^{plant} species, or those from California or the Rocky Mountains. I am particularly that who, like yourself, have been hardworking practical